



swades
FOUNDATION
Rural Empowerment

Pushing Boundaries
A year of community-driven transformation

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25





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Message from our Founders

As we reflect on another transformative year at the Swades Foundation, we find ourselves one step closer to our vision of an empowered rural India. Through this past year, we remained anchored in our core belief — that sustainable change is only possible when it is led by the community itself.

Together, we tried, faltered, learned, and triumphed — and in doing so, we pushed boundaries, both literally and figuratively.

This year, we stepped beyond our stronghold in Raigad in a consolidated way to expand our footprint to Nashik, where we celebrated a major milestone: the launch of our first Dream Village outside Raigad – in Gaydhond.

A tribal hamlet in Peth block of Nashik, Gaydhond is not just a frontrunner in our new geography — it's a symbol. A symbol that our model is replicable and scalable, just as we envisioned when we began this journey.

This year, we reimagined 'social capital' and 'investment' as the highest fundraiser in the first round of NGO listings on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) of the National Stock Exchange — a proud moment in redefining how the development sector can access funding channels – while bringing transparency and accountability to the process.

We brought technology directly into the hands of the community through the Swades App, empowering them to raise and track their needs with ease.

We also intensified our climate action by scaling up Natural Resource Management (NRM) initiatives — harvesting rainwater at scale to not only enable year-round farming but also foster ecological balance in the regions that we serve.

All this, and so much more, comes alive in the pages of this Annual Report — a reflection of a year where boundaries were challenged and new milestones created.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported the work of Swades Foundation—our 11,000+ dedicated community volunteers, generous donors, numerous NGO collaborators, and the ever-supportive local and state administrations. At the heart of it all is our passionate Swades team, led by our CEO Mangesh Wange, whose commitment and infectious enthusiasm fuels every milestone and brings our core vision of empowering rural communities to life.

- Zarina and Ronnie Screwvala
(Founders)



Message from our CEO

Every year at Swades brings new challenges and achievements, and I remain grateful for the opportunity to witness such transformational change — as we did again in 2024–25. It was a year marked by bold strides, significant milestones, and unforgettable moments that reaffirmed our belief in the power of rural transformation— led by the communities themselves.

One of our proudest achievements was getting listed on the National Stock Exchange through the Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instrument on the Social Stock Exchange — a pioneering move that backs our ambitious vision for rural India. Our partnership with the Government of Maharashtra took a leap forward with the signing of a Letter of Intent to declare 1,000 Dream Villages across the state — with 200 of these villages already brought into the fold this year.

We scaled our efforts to create climate-smart villages, celebrated a decade of our skilling programme with training 10,000 youth, and hosted a powerful women's marathon in rural Maharashtra to raise awareness around breast cancer — showing how health, empowerment, and community engagement go hand in hand. These and many more such milestones came to life – as you will read in the pages that follow.

Across every milestone, what remains constant is the commitment of our teams — both in the field and behind the scenes — the support of our partners, the local administrations, and above all, the determination of our communities to shape a better future for themselves. As we step into a new year, I look forward to deepening our impact, reaching more villages, and finding innovative ways to honour our collective vision — a confident, self-reliant rural India.

- Mangesh Wange

(CEO, Board Member)



Who we are:

Swades Foundation is a community-driven non-profit working with a singular aim of lifting a million lives out of poverty every 5 years in rural India. Our motto – Swa Se Bane Des – asserts the belief that every person has the power to transform themselves, their country and the world.

We build ambition, ignite hope, and empower communities to take charge of their own journey through a unique holistic model of development, in Water and Sanitation, Health, Education, and Economic Development.

At the heart of our mission is nurturing community leadership and ownership to ensure deep, sustainable, long-term empowerment. With over 11,000 community volunteers and 270+ full-time staff—predominantly working at the grassroots level—Swades Foundation has the execution capability to drive impactful change.

Our Vision:

An empowered and poverty-free rural India where communities are capable of transforming their own lives.

Our Mission:

To lift a million people out of poverty in rural India every 5 years through a holistic approach to Water & Sanitation, Health, Education and Economic Development - by creating a scalable, replicable and community-centric model of sustainable development.

Our Philosophy:

At the Swades Foundation, we believe that the partnership of rural India with corporates, young urban India, the Government and other foundations is the key to create a permanent and irreversible change for good.



Honours and achievements:

IFCCI CSR Conclave Award for Economic Development

Received the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI) CSR Conclave Award for our Samruddh Kutumb initiative – focussing on income augmentation of rural communities through on-farm, off-farm and non-farm programmes.



Great Place To Work® | 6th year in a row!

Swades Foundation has been certified as a Great Place to Work® for the sixth consecutive year, highlighting once again, our commitment to nurture a flourishing work culture and environment!

Network 18 award for Water Stewardship

Recognised for our sustained efforts in water access and conservation—ensuring long-term water security for rural communities.



Water Digest Awards for Revival of Water Resources

Honored with the Best Water NGO – Revival of Water Resources award at the UNESCO-supported Water Digest Awards, recognizing our community-driven efforts in water conservation.



CSR Universe Climate Action and Sustainability Conference and Awards (CASCA)

Won under the 'Community engagement for sustainability' category.

People and partnerships that powered 2024-25

Swades Foundation signed LOI with Maharashtra Govt. to create 1000 Dream Villages

Swades Foundation signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with the Government of Maharashtra on 5 September 2024, to create 1,000 Dream Villages in rural Maharashtra over the next five years – in the presence of honourable Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The first phase of the initiative saw 75 Dream villages in Raigad district of Maharashtra earn the title in 2022-23.

As of June 2025, more than 200 villages have joined the list, with more to follow over the next few months.



Converging with Government for scalable rural transformation



**Government of
Maharashtra**

In 2024-25, we deepened our govt. convergence in Nashik and Raigad. In Nashik, government partnerships enabled a total fund utilisation of ₹64 crore across key development priorities, including the construction of 2,225 rural housing units, internal roads in 38 villages, external roads in 27 villages, drainage systems in 48 villages, 28 anganwadi centres, 35 community halls, and 30 graveyard units. These efforts were formalized through an MOU with the Nashik District Collector reinforced by regular reviews with all concerned departments to ensure accountability and timely execution. Meanwhile, in Raigad, we facilitated the approval of ₹51.34 crore out of a sanctioned ₹110 crore from the government, of which ₹38.77 crore was closed during the year. Key outcomes included 40 general health check-up camps through PHCs and the provisioning

of solar energy to 16 PHCs in partnership with SELCO Foundation. The Agriculture Department extended ₹4.82 lakh in support to Organic FPCs in Mahad, while five rural entrepreneurs were supported under the Chief Minister Employment Guarantee Programme (CMEGP) with a total project cost of ₹61 lakh and an additional ₹20 lakh in subsidies. Further, 60 tribal women from six SHGs in Sudhagad were supported by the ITDP Department in Pen through the procurement of 600 goats and 60 bucks, amounting to ₹70 lakh.

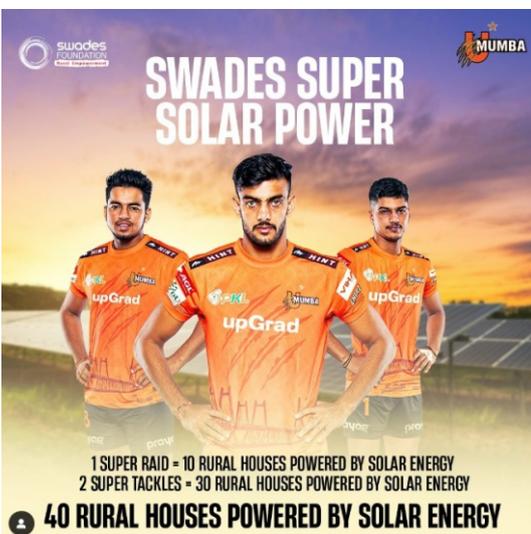


■ Pinkathon teamed up with Swades communities for a health run!

In November 2024 we partnered with Pinkathon, to launch the #RunForRuralHealth event in Sudhagad, Raigad, inspiring rural women to prioritize health and fitness. Over 150 local women participated in a symbolic 2K run, joined by the Swades team and Pinkathon founder Milind Soman.

■ Swades partnered with Deutsche Bank's marathon for a cause

We were honoured to have been the NGO partner for Deutsche Bank's #PlusMySteps initiative, which hosted a marathon in support of our 'New Orchard' programme in December 2024. Through this partnership, 15,000 fruit-bearing trees were provided to marginalized farmers, aligning with our shared vision of empowering Indian farmers and promoting environmental sustainability. This program helps farmers, who often rely solely on rain-fed paddy, diversify their fields with fruit-bearing trees.



■ Social Impact Partnership with U Mumba!

For season 11 of the Pro Kabaddi League, we joined forces with U Mumba as social impact partners. For every Super Tackle and Super Raid, 15 and 10 homes were powered with solar energy respectively. With 8 Super Tackles and 4 Super Raids throughout the season, 160 homes were lit up!



Pushing Boundaries – Dreaming Big in Nashik

Every Swades Dream Village story is magical in its own way and reflects the spirit of its community. But “firsts” are firsts. And therefore, the story of Gaydhond, our first Dream Village outside of Raigad—in Nashik—will always be retold with just a little extra joy.

November 15, 2022, when the Swades team first arrived in Gaydhond, they found a quiet village of paddy farmers and daily wage workers, where narrow lanes told stories of neglect. As with every Dream Village, the journey began with a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) activity, where the entire village came together to clean and transform their surroundings, marking the first “S” of a Dream Village: Swachh (Clean).

Next came Sundar (Beautiful). The community decided to create a village gate to mark the entrance and to paint the entire village in a single colour. Today, any frame from Gaydhond is instantly recognisable with its refreshing yellow walls adorned with vibrant art, adding both charm and identity to the village.

But perhaps the most significant milestone has been Samruddh (Prosperous).

With the support of Swades Foundation’s irrigation and farm pond initiatives, paddy farmers in Gaydhond today have adopted multi-cropping and farming all-year-round. From just 5 earlier, the village now proudly counts 60 Mogra farmers, boosting incomes and dramatically reducing seasonal migration.

The youth, too, are scripting their own success stories—venturing into pickle-making by leveraging government schemes and connecting to SHG markets to create additional sources of income.

Significant progress has also been made under the Swasth (Healthy) and Sakshar (Educated) pillars. The local Zilla Parishad school has been equipped with solar power and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) infrastructure, enhancing the learning environment. At the same time, Swades Mitras—community health volunteers—have been empowered to deliver primary healthcare at the doorstep and actively mobilize community members to participate in health camps organized by Swades.

What truly sets Gaydhond apart is how it went above and beyond our own expectations, pushing us to stretch the limits of time and effort. While most Dream Villages follow a three-year roadmap to achieve the comprehensive goals of being Swachh (Clean), Sundar (Beautiful), Swasth (Healthy), Sakshar (Literate), and Samruddh (Prosperous), Gaydhond accomplished them all in just 18 months. This remarkable feat was driven by the community’s infectious enthusiasm—especially its youth—complemented in equal measure by the support of the Swades field team, setting a powerful new benchmark for other Dream Villages to aspire to.

Pushing Boundaries – Unlocking capital through Social Stock Exchange

In 2024, Swades Foundation marked a significant milestone by becoming one of the first non-profits in India to be listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) under Social Stock Exchange (SSE), underscoring our commitment to transparency, accountability, and innovation.

The SSE, regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), represents a groundbreaking reform in the development sector. It levels the playing field, offering even smaller NGOs the opportunity to raise funds through a regulated and trustworthy channel alongside larger players. For donors, the SSE ensures transparency, measurable impact, and compliance with SEBI's rigorous standards, making it easier to support causes that align with their values.

The SSE aids nation building by fuelling progress towards the UN SDGs and driving innovation in the development sector. In essence, it creates a transparent, efficient, and purpose-driven ecosystem for fundraising, empowering social organizations to reach new heights in their mission.

In our maiden listing, we successfully raised ₹10 crore—the highest Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) issue on the NSE, in the inaugural round of the SSE - a testament to the trust and confidence in our holistic 360° development model.

The groundbreaking platform has not only enabled Swades to push boundaries but also to redefine the standards of excellence in driving meaningful, scalable social impact.



Swades raises
₹10 Crore
on Social Stock Exchange



Swades Foundation Application



Pushing Boundaries – Advancing tech-driven community engagement

In a significant leap towards tech-driven development, Swades Foundation introduced the SWADES application — putting the power of progress directly in the hands of the community. Designed for use by Village Development Committees (VDCs) and trained community volunteers, the app enables users to independently raise programme demands, eliminating dependence on traditional paper-based methods.

With over 26,000 data submissions and 34 programme demands raised, the app is driving faster, more accurate, and inclusive decision-making and execution across villages. This digital shift not only saves valuable time for the Swades team—allowing them to do more— but also builds a culture of ownership and accountability at the grassroots. By simplifying workflows, enabling real-time insights, and promoting digital literacy, the SWADES app is more than a tool—it's a symbol of how we're pushing the boundaries of rural development through innovation.

Pushing Boundaries – Accelerating climate action with water and other initiatives

Creating climate resilience with Natural Resource Management:

In 2024-25, Swades Foundation has taken bold strides to push the boundaries of climate resilience by implementing impactful Natural Resource Management (NRM) initiatives. By completing lining work for 74 farm ponds across multiple villages in rural Maharashtra, we've enabled the harvesting of over 8.16 crore litres of rainwater, directly supporting second cropping in adjoining farms.

Through bench terracing and land levelling, 38 acres of barren land were transformed into cultivable fields, expanding local food production. Additionally, the excavation of 21,660 meters of Continuous Contour Trenches (CCT) across six villages is facilitating the percolation of 15.25 crore litres of rainwater, significantly enhancing groundwater levels.

Our efforts to mitigate soil erosion and boost water retention were further strengthened with 5 recharge shafts, 240 recharge pits, and 30 Loose Boulder Structures (LBS). Extending our support beyond NRM villages, 89 farmer-excavated farm ponds were lined, enabling the collection of another 2.1 crore litres of water. Each intervention is a step forward in building climate-resilient communities and creating sustainable livelihoods.



Activity	Number	Potential of impact
Farm Ponds	74	8.16 crores litres of rainwater harvested
Bench Terracing and Land Leveling		28 acres of barren land converted to cultivable land
Continuous Contour Trenches (CCT)	21,660 meters	Percolation of 15.25 crore litres of rainwater

■ Promoting Circular Economy through Sustainable Waste Management

Under the Waste Management programme, communities actively participate in collecting their dry waste, which is then handed over to a collection van operated by Green Communities Foundation, a partner NGO. This waste is subsequently recycled at a processing unit in Khopoli. To complete the cycle and further strengthen the circular economy, Swades Foundation has repurposed the waste collected from Swades Villages to create desks for solar equipment in schools in 2024-25. This initiative is a fine example of community-led development, where the Village Development Committees (VDCs) have taken full ownership of coordinating with Green Communities, ensuring the program runs on auto-pilot. As a significant first step, nearly 90 desks were produced, with each desk made from 32 kg of plastic waste, highlighting the impact of collaboration and sustainable practices in fostering a greener future.

In 2024–25, communities from 236 villages across seven blocks of Raigad collected and sent 80,753 kgs (80.75 MTs) of dry waste for processing.

Till date, a total of 1,52,375 kgs (152.37 MTs) of dry waste has been collected.





■ Solar power - Lighting up rural India through clean energy

In 2024-25, Swades Foundation continued to scale its renewable energy interventions, through the installation of solar-powered systems across six key programs—Water pumps, WFI (Water for Irrigation), School Solar, Anganwadi (AW) Solar, Solar Streetlights, and Home Solar—a total of 16,33,545 KWP of clean energy was generated. This transition to solar energy led to a total carbon emission reduction of 1,183.07 metric tonnes (MT).

In 2024-25, Swades generated 16.33 lakh KWP of solar energy, cutting 1,183 MT of carbon emissions

■ Cutting carbon with Biogas Solutions

During 2024-25, the installation of 60 bio-gas units across three blocks in Nashik has significantly advanced energy security while reducing dependence on conventional and polluting fuels. These units have led to the elimination or substantial reduction in the use of 144 LPG cylinders and over 65,000 kilograms of firewood, directly lowering household expenses and indoor air pollution. More importantly, this transition has contributed to a reduction of approximately 367.56 metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year. Additionally, using biogas slurry from units, rather than dumping it directly into fields, results in better-quality fertilizer—boosting soil health and improving crop yield.

We are committed to enabling more rural households switch to clean energy while improving health and creating climate-resilient communities and futures.

60 biogas units installed, reducing approximately 115.19 MT CO₂ emissions annually





Water and Sanitation

Pushing Boundaries – Engaging community-driven water solutions

We are deeply committed to restoring the dignity of rural communities by ensuring access to two fundamental needs: safe drinking water and a clean, individual toilet in every home—transforming villages into self-sufficient, open defecation-free (ODF) spaces that safeguard health, hygiene and safety, with the community at the centre of every step to ensure ownership and sustainability.

In schools, we strengthen WASH infrastructure by providing safe drinking water, hand-washing facilities, and separate toilets for girls and boys—creating a healthy, inclusive environment conducive to learning.

Highlights for FY 24-25

Swajal – Community-driven water abundance

Swajal is a community-driven water conservation initiative. It works by forming and training local committees—including women, youth, and elders—to manage and maintain water resources. Communities carry out activities like trench digging, stream cleaning, soak pits, and rainwater harvesting. So far, over 800 hamlets across 7 blocks in Raigad have joined the program, completing 7,000+ water recharge activities and collecting 400+ million litres of water. Thanks to strong community ownership, 95% of these water projects are still running successfully, leading to better water access and improved health.



Foundational interventions:

Drinking water in homes

Our goal is to ensure that every household in our geography receives potable water every day through a tap installed at home. To achieve this, we implement comprehensive water projects that bring water from natural sources to a central storage reservoir and then distribute it directly to individual homes through a robust, well-engineered grid. Our team of water engineers and field staff carry out geophysical and technical surveys to design effective systems tailored to each village's needs. Community involvement is at the heart of our approach—residents actively participate through voluntary labour (shramdaan), working alongside us to ensure that water reaches every home.

To make these projects sustainable, we form local water committees made up of community representatives. They receive extensive training in the operation and maintenance of their hamlet's water system, empowering them to manage the resource independently and sustainably.



Household Sanitation for ODF Villages

At Swades, our mission is to ensure that every rural household has access to a functional toilet and that its use becomes a daily habit. Each toilet is built with twin compost pits, promoting eco-friendly waste management. The compost generated from treated waste can be reused by families in their farms to enrich their soil, closing the loop between sanitation and sustainability. Central to sustaining this effort is the Nigrani Samiti—a dedicated group of trained community volunteers who uphold sanitation norms. In several Nashik villages, these committees are entirely led by women, underscoring their vital role in promoting hygiene, safety, and dignity.



School Water and Hygiene

Our goal is to ensure that every school has access to clean toilets and safe drinking water. We begin by assessing the condition of existing urinals and standposts—repairing those that are functional and constructing new, separate toilets for boys and girls wherever they're lacking. This transforms the school environments, enhancing hygiene and comfort while significantly improving student attendance, especially among girls, by supporting their health, dignity, and well-being.

Water For Irrigation

Consistent water supply can enable farmers to grow second and even third crops annually, significantly boosting their incomes. This not only helps lift families out of poverty but also curbs seasonal migration and therefore keeps children in school. Largely powered by solar energy, the framework enables distribution of water in the farmlands through drip irrigation, transforming previously uncultivable land into fertile, productive acres and significantly benefiting farming communities.





When I first moved to Chachkond after marriage and saw the water scarcity, I wondered how my parents agreed to marry me into this village. I was not used to fetch water before, but here we would make four trips for four pots of water. If one fainted, one would lay there for an hour without anyone finding out about it. After Swades came to our village, we have access to clean water and it feels like the lord himself has blessed our village.

-Sitabai Mahabale, Poladpur, Raigad



Water and Sanitation

**Impact till
Date**

**Impact created
in 2024-25**

	Impact till Date	Impact created in 2024-25
Drinking Water Schemes (DWS) completed	763	20
Hamlets provided with (DWS)	973	29
Household supported with drinking water through taps	47,961	1,268
Beneficiaries impacted with DWS through taps	2,34,367	6,264
Household toilets built	34,956	3,104
Beneficiaries impacted through toilet facility	1,55,831	15,469
Schools provided with WATSAN facilities	273	13



Education

Pushing Boundaries – Teaching beyond the curriculum

Swades remains committed to transforming rural classrooms by creating a joyful and inclusive learning environment. Along with robust infrastructure, trained educators, and opportunities that go beyond the traditional curriculum, we nurture conscious citizens.

Highlights for FY 24-25

Introducing arts in tribal schools with Baithak Foundation:

As part of our commitment to holistic education that goes beyond academics, Swades Foundation partnered with Baithak Foundation to launch a pilot program bringing the richness of Indian classical art into tribal schools in Nashik. This collaboration introduces students to vocal, instrumental, and dance traditions through three structured phases - Anubhav (immersive concerts), Parichay (interactive workshops), and Taleem (weekly skill-building sessions).

The programme is a three-year long intervention which systematically introduces traditional art forms (vocal, instrumental and dance) to children. Anubhav involves immersive concerts held in schools to cultivate an appreciation and fondness for traditional arts. Parichay consists of interactive workshops where children learn the foundational elements of artistic practice and Taleem provides weekly training in music, dance, or a chosen instrument, enabling students to develop mastery in their selected art form.

Engagement in art fosters confidence, focus, concentration, and self-awareness. These skills positively influence classroom participation, ultimately leading to improved learning outcomes.

The pilot saw 327 students in three tribal residential schools from class 5 to 7 engaged in the Anubhav phase of the intervention.



■ Strengthening school ecosystems with community participation

With the primary goal of improving school attendance and enrolment, Swades Foundation initiated the formation of Education Committees in Nashik – to bring together parents, Village Development Committee members, anganwadi workers, and local youth to act as active partners in the education process.

A total of 137 Education Committees were formed, engaging 1,266 members. The empowerment led to 15 school dropouts re-enrolling, and 51 engagement activities such as Van Bhojan (traditional meal enjoyed in a forest / amidst greenery), fun games, tree plantation drives, and competitions, conducted to increase parental involvement. Additionally, bridging classes were introduced in 14 villages, helping children develop regular study habits.

■ Enhancing Soft Skills for Future Readiness

We recognise that soft skills are critical to employability and long-term success in today's dynamic workforce. Through our EduSkilling programme (Education + Skilling), we equip youth with high-demand competencies—including communication, time management, and problem-solving—bridging the gap between education and opportunity.

In partnership with the GTT Foundation, the programme delivers structured soft skills training to college students. Additionally, Swades Foundation's in-house team of trainers implements the initiative for school students from Grades 9 to 12, ensuring a comprehensive approach to skill development across educational levels. Over 600 students benefited from this intervention in its first year.

Foundational interventions:

Swades' Education Efforts have three main pillars : Mindset Change, Enabling Environment and Future-Ready.

Mindset change:

Over the years, this programme has evolved from focusing solely on training teachers and principals to now engaging parents and communities as active partners in the education system.

To date, over 5,000 school leaders have been trained through Swades' initiatives. This year alone, more than 137 Education Committees were formed as part of our expanded effort to strengthen grassroots participation in education.



Enabling Environment:



To build an environment truly conducive to learning, Swades implements a range of school-based interventions focused on infrastructure and basic amenities. These include clean drinking water, handwashing stations, and separate toilets for boys and girls, in line with UNICEF guidelines. To ensure uninterrupted learning, solar power systems are installed in schools, providing reliable electricity for fans, lights, and digital tools—especially important in areas prone to frequent power cuts.

Future-Ready

Swades Foundation extends its support beyond school by offering two types of scholarships to help students continue their educational journeys. Mass Scholarships are provided to students entering Grades XI and XII, while Excellence Scholarships support those pursuing professional degrees in fields such as Engineering, Medicine, Chartered Accountancy (CA), architecture etc.





If I hadn't received Swades' scholarship, my father would have probably found a way to fund my education, but I would have constantly worried about how we would pay my next term fee. Because Swades stood by me, my first priority is to give back to my community."

–*Mohtasim Mapkar (Mechanical Engineer), Mangaon, Raigad*



Education	Impact till Date	Impact created in 2024-25
Schools reached	1,507	100
Anganwadis reached	950	113
Students impacted	1,54,110	1,741
Excellence scholarships for professional courses	895	297
Mass scholarship (Grade XI & XII)	8,481	997
Students provided abacus training	11,834	657
Schools provided with library support	659	0
Career counseling given to students	60,625	0
Education committees formed	137	31





Health

Pushing Boundaries – Advancing healthcare accessibility

Alongside making healthcare accessible and affordable for rural communities, a key tenet of health programmes at Swades is promoting health seeking behavior. A cornerstone of this effort is our cadre of trained community health volunteers, who serve as vital links between villages and public/private healthcare providers. They offer first aid and primary healthcare, help bridge critical gaps in care and build trust within the community. We work in close collaboration with government and private healthcare stakeholders—including doctors, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, and ANMs—to ensure the last-mile delivery of health services.

Highlights for FY 24-25

Bringing cancer screening to rural doorsteps

Swades Foundation's initiative in rural Nashik aims at creating awareness about breast, cervical, and oral cancers for proactive screening, and timely care. This initiative focuses on educating rural women about their health and hygiene, early cancer detection, facilitating free screening camps at PHCs, and mobilizing ASHA workers along with trained Swades community health volunteers (Swades Mitras) through partner hospitals (SMBT medical college and hospitals) for outreach and follow-ups. Through awareness sessions for women aged 18+ and screening camps for those 30+, breaks myths, promotes health-seeking behavior, and ensures timely referrals.

A total of 934 women were screened across multiple health camps in rural Nashik, with 100 suspected cases referred to partner hospitals for further evaluation and care.

Learning meets healing at health camps in tribal schools

As part of Swades Foundation's health programme in *ashram shaalas* in Nashik, comprehensive health camps were conducted in tribal residential schools. The initiative aims to promote universal health coverage by training teachers as health champions and addressing a wide range of health issues—including vision and hearing impairments, anaemia, cardiac problems, orthopaedic conditions, and more—with support from Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK). A focused dental camp, conducted in partnership with SMBT Hospital, identified 1,400 cases—all of whom received timely treatment thereafter.



Village Health Camp

As part of our commitment to accessible primary healthcare in rural India, Swades Foundation organized a series of Village Health Camps (Gram Swashtya Sankalp Mohim), starting with Homepada, Nashik—the first of nine planned across the region. These comprehensive camps offered screenings for non-communicable diseases (diabetes, hypertension), cataract, paediatric hearing disabilities, gynaecological issues and more. Identified cases were referred to appropriate facilities including partner hospitals such as SMBT/Tulsi Eye Hospital or local PHCs and rural hospitals for further evaluation and treatment. To sustain awareness and encourage follow-up care, *Gram Arogya Sabhas* were convened by village development committees to discuss outcomes and next steps. More than 550 suspect cases were referred to partner hospitals under different conditions - reflecting the need for the interventions on ground.

Foundational interventions:

■ Taking healthcare to the last mile – Swades Mitras

At the heart of Swades Foundation’s vision for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in rural and tribal communities are the Swades Mitras — a dedicated cadre of over 2,500 well-trained community health volunteers serving a population of 4.97 lakhs across Raigad and Nashik. These frontline champions are the first point of contact for healthcare in remote villages, playing a critical role in delivering preventive care, facilitating timely treatment, and ensuring post-treatment support.

Swades Mitras mobilize community participation and connect villagers to government health infrastructure and Swades’ partner hospitals. They enable regular village health camps, raise awareness on the importance of early detection and routine check-ups, and support services such as first aid, institutional deliveries, child immunization, and coordination with ANMs and ASHAs. Their work extends beyond treatment by assisting families with medication adherence, rehabilitation, and navigating government health schemes.



■ Vision Care

With India accounting for nearly one-third of the world’s visually impaired population, the Mobile Vision Care program brings essential eye care directly to underserved communities. The initiative provides free screenings for cataracts, refractive errors, and other vision conditions, distributes spectacles to those in need, and facilitates cataract surgeries at partner hospitals in Mumbai and Pune—covering transportation, accommodation, and post-operative care to ensure seamless access to treatment.





Swades has truly done us a great service by bringing eye care right to our doorstep. I had been putting off my eye check-up for a long time, but when a Swades Mitra visited our home, there was no reason to delay any longer. Now, with my new spectacles, I can see much more clearly, and daily chores have become so much easier. I'm truly grateful for this support."

-Mahadu Kale Lokhare, Igatpuri, Nashik



Health	Impact till Date	Impact created in 2024-25
Swades Mitras created	2,628	106
Active Swades Mitras	1,735	15
Vision Care: Individuals screened by Swades Mitras	3,55,006	18,065
Screenings conducted by optometrists	2,66,087	14,941
Refractive errors detected	1,33,477	9,315
Spectacles distributed	1,26,283	8,168
Cataract identified	45,371	798
Cataract surgeries completed	22,044	829
Children supported with vision aids	1,444	77
Children with special needs (CWSN) surgeries	379	16
Children supported with Hearing aids	300	6
Hearing impairment Surgeries	326	12
Individuals screened for cancer (oral, breast and cervical)	81	1
Cardiac care for children	183	1



Economic Development

Pushing Boundaries – Enhancing farm incomes

Our efforts in economic development aim to boost rural incomes by building aspiration and enabling sustainable livelihoods through on-farm, off-farm, and non-farm activities. The initiatives aim to ensure that every household in the village earns a minimum annual income of ₹2 lakhs by providing access to diversified and resilient livelihood opportunities.

Highlights for FY 24-25

Empowering farmers with high value crop diversification

In 2024–25, Swades Foundation scaled up its agricultural initiatives in Nashik to promote higher farm incomes through non-traditional crops and allied livelihoods. Programs included large-scale cultivation of Safed Musli, which grew from 82 to 675 households, generating an average income of ₹22,295 per family. Other pilots—like Capsicum, Mogara, and Bamboo Nursery—were introduced across blocks, with promising income projections for future cycles. Supportive interventions like farm pond lining and value chain development for Musli were also undertaken. Additionally, improved access to water for irrigation has significantly reduced seasonal migration, allowing families to pursue consistent livelihoods locally.



Integrating ecology and economy

In 2024–25, we deepened our commitment to climate resilience by aligning environmental conservation with rural livelihood enhancement. Through the lining of 74 farm ponds across villages in rural Maharashtra, we enabled the harvesting of over 8.16 crore litres of rainwater, directly supporting second cropping and improving farm productivity. Complementing this, our Orchard Programme promotes the cultivation of high-quality, region-specific fruit-bearing trees—such as Mango, Cashew, Coconut, and Sapota—on fenced plots. A total of 2,446 households benefitted from the orchards programme during the year, increasing the green cover in the region and reducing carbon footprint along with creating long-term income opportunities, with farmers projected to earn ₹9,600–12,000 per household within four years, based on a 60% sapling survival rate.

Future-Ready Skills for People and Planet

Swades Foundation's skilling programme focused on equipping communities with green skills in electric mobility, solar energy, and sustainable construction. In the EV sector, 18 youth were trained in assembly and maintenance, securing jobs with an average salary of ₹13,192. 366 individuals trained as Solar PV Installers, contributing to 120 solar pump installations under the Kusum Scheme. Swades also trained 818 Assistant Masons in eco-friendly AAC blocks, enabling them to earn up to ₹40,000 per project through government and private contracts. These efforts combine environmental sustainability with job creation and economic empowerment. Swades also trained 818 Assistant Masons in AAC block construction, an eco-friendly method, with placements under Gharkul Yojana and private contractors, earning up to ₹40,000 per project.

Foundational interventions:

On Farm:

Our On-Farm Programme empowers farmers with sustainable, year-round cultivation options beyond rain-fed paddy, including vegetables, fruits, and flowers. Key initiatives like solar-powered drip irrigation, fruit sapling plantations, and rainwater storage ponds ensure water efficiency and security. Exposure visits and expert training further boost yields, incomes, and resilience.



Off-farm:

Our Off-Farm Programme creates sustainable livelihoods through dairy farming, goat rearing, poultry, and fishing. It ensures steady income with innovations like hydroponic fodder, veterinary care, and market linkages. Poultry empowers SHG women, while goat rearing supports tribal and marginalized communities. By building skills, providing resources, and fostering a growth mindset, we enable diverse, resilient income opportunities.



On Farm:

Our Non-Farm Programme empowers rural youth with skill training in trades like masonry, electrical work, data entry, hospitality, and more, opening doors to formal employment. For those with entrepreneurial dreams, we offer training, exposure visits, and guidance, helping them turn ideas into sustainable businesses. By equipping unemployed youth with industry-relevant skills, we enable them to secure better jobs, earn higher incomes, and uplift their families, fostering pride and progress in rural communities.





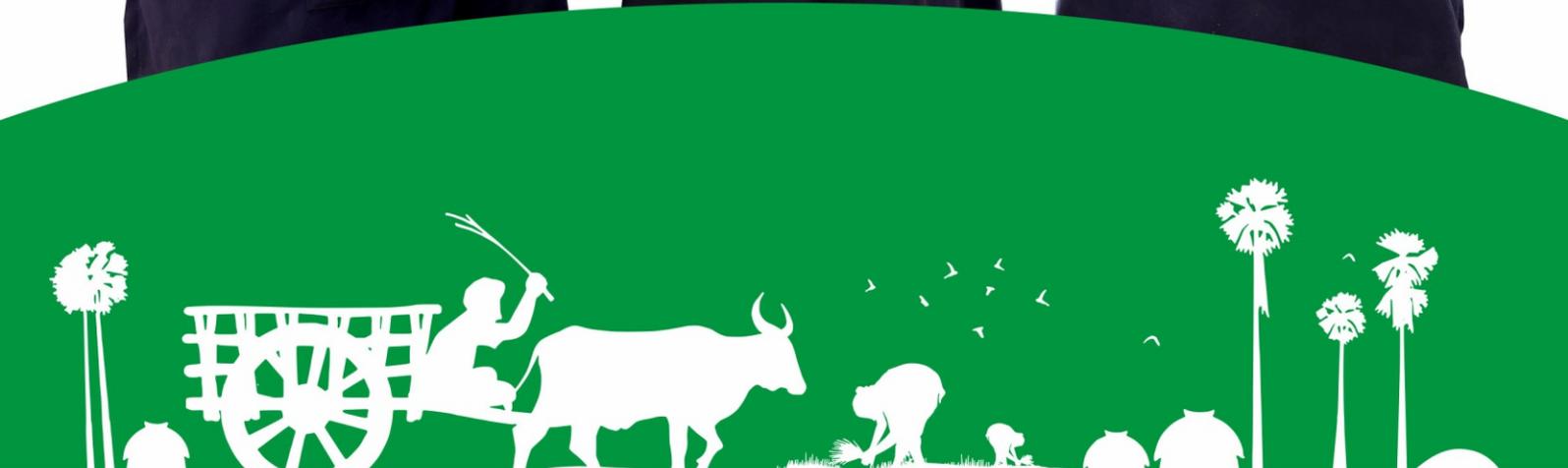
With proper care, the goat-rearing programme holds tremendous potential for growth. I'm grateful for the expert training I received to care for my small herd. I am committed to working hard and growing my herd year after year, so I can make a meaningful contribution to my family's income."

-Shalini Gaikwad, Mahad, Raigad



Economic Development

	Impact till Date	Impact created in 2024-25
Households (unique) supported with Swades ED programmes	55,328	4,311
Households supported with water for irrigation	3,955	592
Households supported with meat poultry	7,212	0
Dairy entrepreneurs created	5,055	122
Milch cattle supplied	6,831	174
Households engaged in goat rearing	10,075	1,205
Youth trained in skilling programme	9,973	2,208
Households supported with New Orchard Programme	27,496	2,446
Households supported with Drumstick Cultivation	8,439	0
Households supported with Mandap Cultivation	1,717	54
Households supported with Fishing nets distributed	4,733	19
Self Help Groups Supported	2,838	0
Food Forest Samples Distributed	11,200	1,200



Swadhin: Powered by Women, Rooted in Communities

In the heart of rural India, Swadhin is rewriting the story of empowerment—where every handmade product is a step toward economic independence for women and farmers. An initiative by Swades Foundation, Swadhin is more than a brand; it's a movement built on tradition, dignity, and entrepreneurship, bringing the richness of rural roots to your home. True to its spirit, it lives and breathes the philosophy—Jagaaye Swades Ka Swaad.



Our Positive Impact

15 women supported,
earning a total of
₹4.46 lakh

₹1.7 crore+ in total
revenue generated

19,963 kg of
cashews sold

Market linkages built
across leading e-commerce
platforms

From field to flavour, every Swadhin product is hand-graded, naturally processed, and crafted with care—ensuring that every purchase supports a growing network of rural women entrepreneurs, self-help groups, and smallholder farmers.

Now, Swadhin is ready to grow further—by welcoming more women's groups and launching a new range of homemade, healthy products. This expansion reflects our continued mission: empowering rural communities through sustainable livelihoods and mindful consumption.

Swadhin was created to be our community's own brand—a platform where rural farmers and entrepreneurs take charge of their futures. What began with cashews is now set to include a wider variety of snacks and produce, staying true to the farm-to-fork philosophy. By keeping Swadhin distinct, we ensure brand clarity for consumers and foster pride, ownership, and independence in the communities we serve.

Because when rural entrepreneurs realise they can shape their own destinies—that's true empowerment.



Our Advisory Board



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Founder & Chairman,
Mahindra Holidays &
Resorts India Ltd. and
Mahindra Lifespace
Developers Ltd.



Amit Chandra

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Bain Capital



Anand Desai

Managing Partner,
DSK Legal



Bernhard Steinruecke

Director General,
Indo-German Chamber
of Commerce



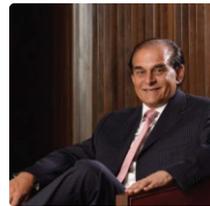
Dr. Devi Shetty

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Limited



Dr. Ganesh Natarajan

Vice Chairman,
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Harsh Mariwala

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National Research
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The President of Global
Research Alliance



RCM Reddy

MD & CEO,
IL&FS Education &
Skills



Sangeeta Talwar

Independent
Director



Suketu V. Shah

Jt. Managing Director
and Promoter,
Mukand Ltd.



Zia Mody

Founder and Senior
Partner, AZB &
Partners

Our Believers



Australian Consulate-General
Mumbai, India



C.H. ROBINSON



Deutsche Bank



ECE Industries Limited



Honeywell







The Lighthouse Project



- **The Lighthouse Project aims to develop Socially Conscious and Contributing Citizens**

It connects Working Professionals & Adults pursuing higher education with Youth from under-resourced communities through one-on-one mentoring. It works to build Values, Life & Social Skills, thus enabling Youth to grow into socially conscious and contributing citizens with a sustainable livelihood.

■ Key Program Statistics

- ◆ 872 Mentees spent 9,428 hours in 6,693 in-person & virtual mentoring meetings during 2024-2025
- ◆ 320 Volunteers participated in the mentoring program
- ◆ 271 (99.63%) Lighthouse Mentees passed the std 10 SSC exam
- ◆ 114 (95.79%) Lighthouse Mentees passed the std 12 HSC exam
- ◆ 68 (100%) Lighthouse Mentees graduated with a Bachelor's Degree
- ◆ 1 Mentee completes Masters in Economics from IIT Kharagpur

■ Volunteer (Mentor) Testimonials

"One thing I've learned from my mentees is that we often overlook the small joys in life, focusing instead on things we can't have or complaining about our jobs. We are privileged, yet we tend to compare ourselves to what we don't possess." - **Male Mentor, School**

"The sense of privilege really gave me a perspective on how fortunate I am compared to others. Secondly, even though my mentee is limited by her circumstances, she isn't afraid to break free from them in any way she can. I'd like to incorporate that same optimism into my own life." - **Female Mentor, Junior College**

■ Mentee (Student) Testimonials

"I am currently studying banking and finance and will be starting my second year in college. For the future, my plan is to work with CS, but I need to pass a foundation exam for it. If that doesn't work out, my plan B is to work as a financial analyst, and if I go with plan B, I plan to pursue an MBA in finance. I realized I needed both a plan A and plan B because of the guidance I received from my mentor." - **Female Mentee, Degree College**

"Bhaiya taught me how to speak in front of an audience. First he made me practise in front of him, then he told me that you will have to speak in Lighthouse office...he taught me how to speak in front of the audience without any fear and with confidence." - **Male Mentee, Junior College**

Balance Sheet

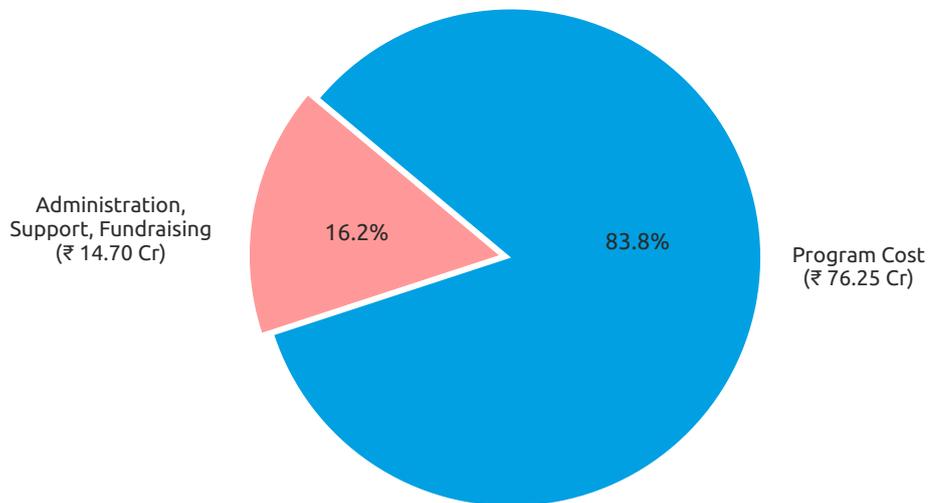
Swades Foundation			
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025			
(All amounts in INR thousands, unless otherwise stated)			
Particulars	Note No.	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
(A) EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
(1) Shareholders' funds			
(a) Share capital	3	100	100
Share Application Money		-	-
(b) Corpus fund	4	850	850
(c) Reserves and surplus	5	-5,864	-33,464
		-4,914	-32,514
(2) Non-current liabilities			
(a) Long-term Borrowings		-	-
(b) Deferred Tax Liabilities (Net)		-	-
(d) Other long term liabilities		-	-
(a) Long-term provisions	6	30,299	23,352
(b) Deferred Income	7	7,483	-
		37,782	23,352
(3) Current Liabilities			
Short-term Borrowings		-	-
(a) Trade payables			
(i) total outstanding dues to micro enterprises and small enterprises (Refer Note 22)	8	4,190	2,684
(ii) total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises	8	14,927	13,688
(b) Deferred Income	7	3,177	-
(c) Other current liabilities	9	67,745	21,181
(d) Short-term provisions	6	12,275	16,295
		1,02,314	53,848
Total		1,35,182	44,686
(B) ASSETS			
(1) Non-current assets			
(a) Property, plant and equipment, Intangible assets and Intangible assets under development (IAUD)			
(i) Property, plant and equipment	10	21,438	8,492
(ii) Intangible assets	10	5,875	2,700
Non Current Investments		-	-
(iii) Intangible assets under development	10	300	4,071
(b) Long-term loans and advances	11	302	4,291
(c) Other Non-current assets	12	110	442
		28,025	19,996
(2) Current assets			
(a) Cash and cash equivalents	13A	76,459	13,623
(b) Other bank balances	13B	850	-
(c) Short-term loans and advances	11	9,191	11,067
(d) Other current assets	14	20,657	-
		1,07,157	24,690
Total		1,35,182	44,686
Summary of significant accounting policies	2		
The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements			
As per our report of event date			
For S.R. Batliboi & Associates LLP		For and on behalf of Board of Directors	
Chartered Accountants		Swades Foundation	
ICAI Firm Registration number: 101049W/E300004		CIN: U74999MH2015NPL266136	
per Ritesh Gada	Rohinton Screwvala	Zarina Screwvala	
Partner	Director	Director	
Membership No:- 121898	DIN No:- 00003423	DIN No:- 00004518	
Place: Mumbai	Place: Mumbai	Place: Mumbai	
Date: 27 May 2025	Date: 27 May 2025	Date: 27 May 2025	

Income and Expenditure

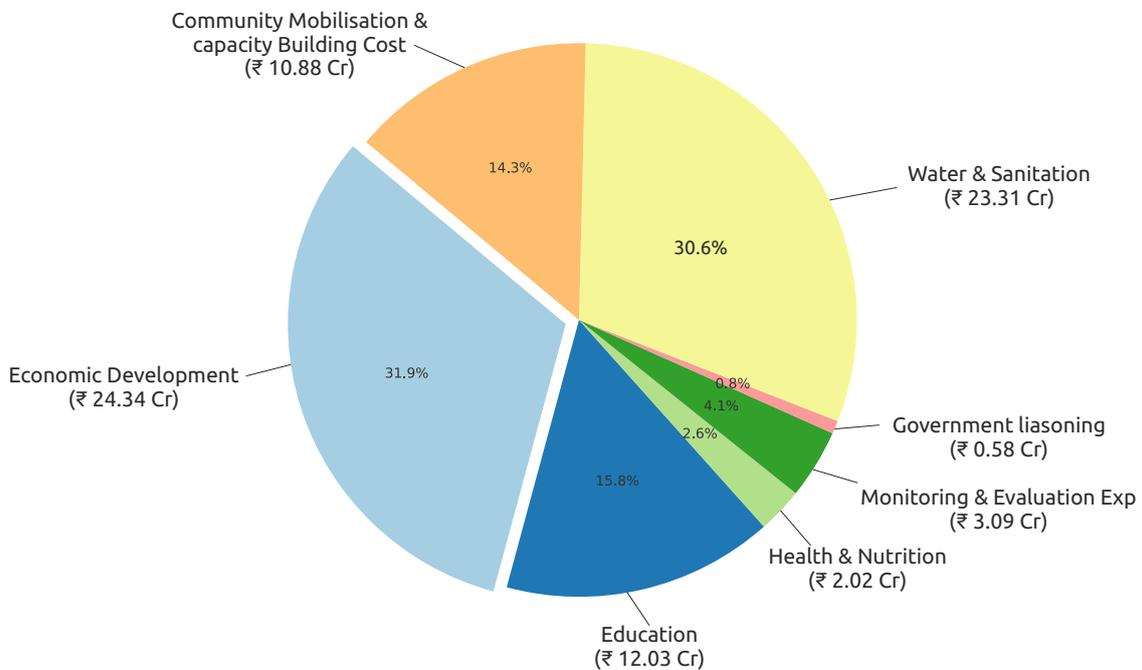
Swades Foundation Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 (All amounts in INR thousands, unless otherwise stated)			
Particulars	Note No.	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
(A) Income			
(1) Donations	15	9,34,318	7,33,792
(2) Other income	16	2,773	3,459
Total Income (1+2)		9,37,091	7,37,251
(B) EXPENDITURE			
(1) Programme expenses	17	5,68,424	4,28,361
(2) Employee benefits expense	18	2,74,148	2,46,856
(3) Depreciation and amortisation expense	19	4,785	3,603
(4) Other expenses	20	62,134	54,174
Total Expenditure (1+2+3+4)		9,09,491	7,32,994
Surplus of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		27,600	4,257
Basic and Diluted Earnings per share (in Rs.) [Face Value of Rs. 10 each (31 March 2024: Rs.10)]	21	2,760	426
Summary of significant accounting policies	2		
The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements As per our report of event date			
For S.R. Batliboi & Associates LLP Chartered Accountants ICAI Firm Registration Number: 101049W/E300004	For and on behalf of Board of Directors Swades Foundation CIN: U74999MH2015NPL266136		
per Ritesh Gada Partner Membership No:- 121898	Rohinton Screwvala Director DIN No:- 00003423	Zarina Screwvala Director DIN No:- 00004518	
Place: Mumbai Date: 27 May 2025	Place: Mumbai Date: 27 May 2025	Place: Mumbai Date: 27 May 2025	

Financial Report

Activity Wise Expenditure in ₹



Program Wise Expenditure in INR ₹





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